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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **1617**

March 12, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to employment; appropriating money for grants to encourage women to
1.3 enter nontraditional careers.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; GRANT ELIGIBILITY.**

1.6 (a) \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2010 from the general fund to the
1.7 commissioner of employment and economic development for grants to nonprofit
1.8 organizations and employment and training services under chapter 116L, for programs
1.9 that encourage and assist women to enter nontraditional careers in the trades; manual
1.10 and technical occupations; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related
1.11 occupations; and green jobs. This appropriation may be matched dollar for dollar with any
1.12 resources available from the federal government for these purposes with priority given to
1.13 initiatives that have a goal of increasing by at least 10 percent the number of women in
1.14 occupations where women currently comprise less than 25 percent of the workforce. The
1.15 appropriation is available until expended.

1.16 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a program must include at least
1.17 one of the following components:

1.18 (1) outreach to girls and women through public and private elementary, junior high,
1.19 and high schools; appropriate community organizations; or existing state and county
1.20 employment and training programs. The outreach must consist of general information
1.21 concerning opportunities for women in the trades; manual and technical occupations;
1.22 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related occupations; and green jobs,
1.23 including specific fields where worker shortages exist and specific information about
1.24 training programs offered. The outreach may include printed or recorded information,

2.1 hands-on experiences and presentations to women and girls, or ongoing contact with
2.2 appropriate staff; or

2.3 (2) assistance for women to enter careers in the trades; manual and technical
2.4 occupations; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related occupations;
2.5 and green jobs as follows:

2.6 (i) training designed to prepare women to succeed in nontraditional occupations,
2.7 conducted by the grantee or in collaboration with another institution. The training shall
2.8 cover the knowledge and skills required for the occupation, information about on-the-job
2.9 realities for women in the particular occupation, physical strength, and stamina training as
2.10 needed, opportunities for developing workplace problem-solving skills, and information
2.11 about the current and projected future job market and likely career paths;

2.12 (ii) assistance with child care and transportation during training, job search, and the
2.13 first two months of employment for low-income women;

2.14 (iii) job placement assistance during and for at least two years after completion of
2.15 the training program; and

2.16 (iv) job retention support. This may take the form of mentorship programs, support
2.17 groups, or ongoing staff contact for at least the first year of placement in a job after
2.18 completion of training, and should include access to job-related information, assistance
2.19 with workplace issues resolution, and access to advocacy.

2.20 (c) Approved programs must be accessible to MFIP-S participants and other
2.21 low-income women. Factors that contribute to accessibility include: (1) affordability of
2.22 tuition and supplies; (2) geographic proximity to low-income neighborhoods, child care,
2.23 and transportation routes; and (3) flexibility of hours per week and duration of program to
2.24 be compatible with family needs and the need for employment during training.

2.25 (d) All state-funded employment and training programs shall include information
2.26 about opportunities for women in nontraditional careers in the trades; manual and technical
2.27 occupations; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related occupations;
2.28 and green jobs.

2.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2009.